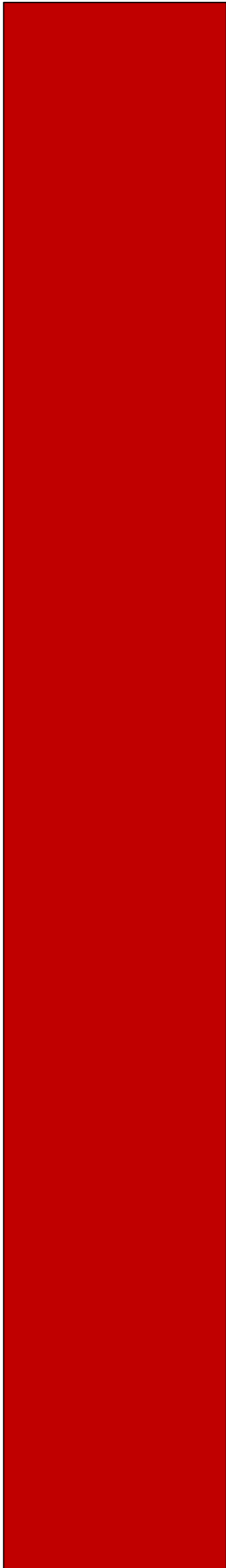


Youth Employment Study
Briefing Summary
Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs

Prepared By:

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Director of Employment and Training



Good morning Mr. Chair and Standing Committee Members. My name is Melanie Kahpeaysewat, Director of Employment and Training for Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs (BATC). First, I want to thank you for the opportunity for inviting Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs to present our view about Youth Employment in Canada. Secondly, I want to introduce the panel from Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs that will be assisting me with the presentation. Chief Lori Whitecalf, Tribal Chair for Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs.

In 2012, Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs assumed responsibility of the administration and aggregation of four of its member First Nations of Social Development that includes: Income Assistance, National Child Reinvestment, Special Needs, Family Violence, Home Care / Adult Care and Early Childhood Intervention Programs (ECIP). As of April 1, 2014 – Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation became part of the Aggregation.

Barriers

Today the youth are plagued with many obstacles such as alcohol & drugs, suicide that have contributed to high unemployment rate, high dropout rate in Education and high rate of individuals on welfare systems. Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs findings are: Many of the youth have limited skills and / or have low literacy skills to enter into a training course or enter into the workforce. As a result, they have nowhere to turn to provide a supportive setting to accommodate the required skills up-grade. The CAAT testing completed by North West Regional College indicates that First Nations scored very low academically. Half of the individuals scored at a level 1 or 2. As a result, would not quality to enter into Adult Basic Education. The youth identified the following as barriers and listed them as top three: lack of support, transportation and childcare.

Multi-facet Approach

In 2012, Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs implemented a multi-faceted program that would support the youth in achieving successful training and employment opportunities. Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs directed Executive Staff to come up with training and employment opportunities that includes youth **15 to 30** years of age. Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs provided a multi – facet programming to pave a success for the youth. The programs comprised of:

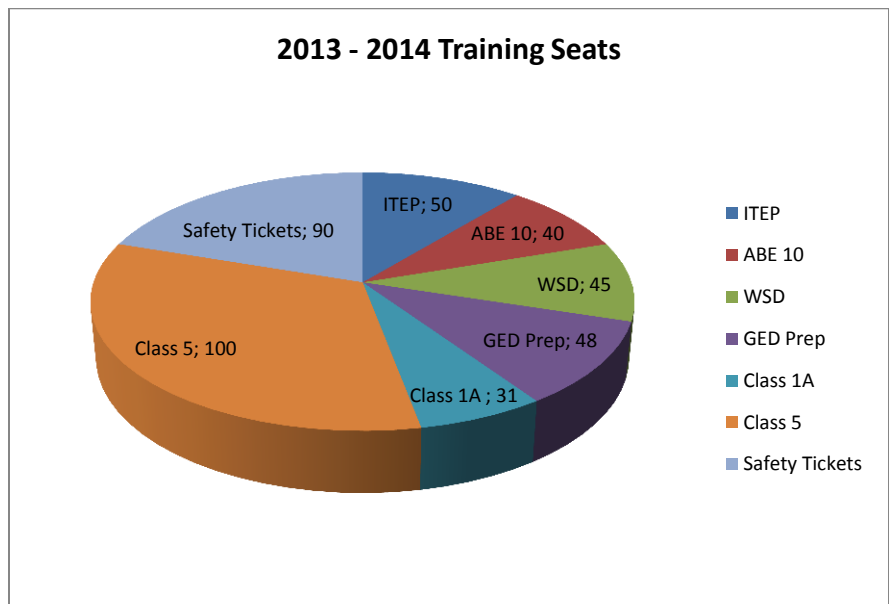
- ❖ Conducting assessments of individual skills and education level to determine what actions are needed to reach individuals goals.
- ❖ Assisting clients through case management plans and continuous follow up.
- ❖ Providing referral services for individuals to enter into higher learning or Trades Programs that would lead to employment.
- ❖ Providing training on Safety Ticket, Safe Food Handling, driver's education and on-line courses.
- ❖ Providing training on life skills, resume writing and interview skills
- ❖ Hosting Career / Job Fair's to enhance career choices by inviting Employers and University / Trades Institutions to display courses offered and meet face to face with the youth.
- ❖ Finding employment that are suited for each individual or find work experience placement.
- ❖ Providing transportation for the participants to training and job sites
- ❖ 24 hour support line for the clients
- ❖ Offer literacy courses such as GED, Essential Skills and Adult Basic Education.

Highlights and Successes

- ❖ Partnered with Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs Social Development to develop a comprehensive data base system to do assessments and community profiles.
- ❖ Assessed 2400 members with database system Peyak Naki to capture data.
- ❖ On August 1, 2013 established the Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs Atoskewin Success Centre with grand opening held on September 25, 2013.
- ❖ The centre provides a “one-Stop Shop” for all enrolled that addresses a supportive setting with a full range of services to support students personally, professionally and academically on their transition to employment.
- ❖ Partnered with Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs Social Development and other organizations to provide safety ticket, safe food handling, career workshop and SCOT Tickets.

- ❖ Arranged informational meetings at each member First Nation, organized workshops, hosted leadership consultations and scheduled visitation to assigned communities.
- ❖ 404 clients received training: Adult Basic Education, General Education Development, Work Skills Development, Bachelor Education Degree, Class 1A Truck Driving, Drivers Education and Safety Tickets.
- ❖ In addition to the training, we offered Life Skills; resume writing, Safe Food Handling and on-line Tickets. 160 participants completed the training.
- ❖ Met with external organizations for funding initiatives for training and employment opportunities.
- ❖ Provided 24 hour support to clients who are on training programs or employed.
- ❖ Found jobs for 610 clients with 58 Industry partners.
- ❖ 1211 clients have multi-barriers and require career mapping.

BATTLEFORDS AGENCY TRIBAL CHIEFS Employment & Training Programs



Program	Statistics as of March 25, 2014
Bachelor of Education Degree	Out of 50 seats, 49 students currently in program
Adult Basic Education 10	Out of 40 seats, 34 students currently in program
Workplace Skills Development	Out of 45 seats, 22 students completed the program and 15 currently in program
General Education Development	Out of 48 seats, 16 completed the program and 9 students currently in program.
Class 1 A – Truck Driver Training	Out of 31 seats, 28 students currently in program
Class 5 – Driver Training	Out of 100 seats, 30 students currently in program and the other seats are scheduled for this fiscal year.
Safety Tickets	Out of 90 seats, 50 completed the training. The other seats are scheduled for this fiscal year.

Additionally, we offered a scaffolding program with 15 seats; currently there are 15 students in the program.

Economic Impact

Part A:	Impact on Social Assistance Budget	
	Basic allocations budget	\$6,000,000.00
	Special expenses	550,000.00
		\$6,550,000.00
	Number of clients	1,300
	Budget impact per client (approx.)	5,038
Part B:	Economic Impact on Social Assistance of New Workers	
	Number of assessed clients	1900
	Training completed	790
	Clients employed	610
	Estimated savings to Social Assistance	\$3,073,462
Part C:	Earnings Potential of New Workers	
	(Assuming a full year of employment at 40 hours per week)	
	(# Of workers) x (Avg. wage) x (hrs. per wk.) x (52 wks. per yr.)	
	610 \$24.00 40 52	\$30,451,200
Part D:	Economic Impact (Oil and Gas Industry) in the Community	
	Multiplier 1.67	\$50,853,504
Part E:	Combined Economic Impact with Social Assistance Savings	
		\$53,926,966

Recommendations

- ❖ The multi-facet delivery of programming has been identified as a need to improve the youth employment rate in Canada.
- ❖ Furthermore, the need for financial resources for employment and training is required on a long term basis to sustain the economic growth.
- ❖ Financial resources for supports not limited to 18-24 year olds on Income Assistance, extend same services to those on lower incomes.

History of Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs

Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs Inc. is a new Tribal Council formed in 2007. The member bands are: Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation, Moosomin First Nation, Red Pheasant Cree Nation, Sweetgrass First Nation, Saulteaux First Nation and Stoney Knoll First Nation. Total population of the six bands is over 9000 band members. This organization was created to provide second level services to the member First Nations on: Band Governance, Financial management, Community Planning, Employment & Training, Economic Development, Housing and Education.